UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : W. C. Sullivan

FROM : W. A. Branigan

SUBJECT: LEE HARVEY OSWALD
INTERNAL SECURITY - RUSSIA - CUBA

SECRET

DATE: 3-27-64

1 - Belmont
1 - Mohr
1 - Conrad
1 - DeLoach
1 - Rosen
1 - Sullivan
1 - Malley
1 - Branigan
1 - Lenihan

Re memorandum Mr. Rosen to Mr. Belmont dated March 26, 1964, titled "The President's Commission; Assassination of the President" reporting that a letter had been furnished to the Bureau by Mr. Rankin requesting the Bureau submit answers to various questions submitted by the Commission. The Commission feels that these questions might be raised at a later date and desired these answers for the record.

The Domestic Intelligence Division has carefully reviewed Mr. Rankin's letter and noted that the Commission have asked to be furnished the answers to 30 specific questions dealing with this Bureau's handling of the Lee Harvey Oswald investigation. Set forth below is a concise breakdown of the specific areas of interest to the Commission in this particular inquiry:

(1) FBI Handling of the Oswald Case Prior to Oswald's Return to the U. S. June 13, 1962. The Commission notes that in our report on the assassination of President Kennedy, we indicated FBI investigation of Oswald had been instituted on May 31, 1962, so that FBI would be notified of Oswald's re-entry by Immigration authorities. Commission desires to know nature of our investigation prior to May 31, 1962, inasmuch as Bureau had received information from State Department records that Oswald planned to return to U. S. much earlier than May 31, 1962.

(2) FBI Handling of Oswald Case Immediately Following Oswald's Return From Russia. Commission noted Oswald returned to U. S. June 13, 1962, but was not interviewed by FBI until June 26, 1962. Commission desires to know why FBI did not interview Oswald immediately upon his arrival in U. S. June 13, 1962.

(3) FBI Analyses of Oswald Following Our Interviews With Him on June 26, 1962, and August 12, 1962 (correct date of interview August 10, 1962). Commission also desires to be furnished FBI reaction to the CIA report of August 10, 1963, regarding Oswald's visit to the Soviet Embassy, Mexico City, Mexico. Commission asked what was the FBI evaluation of Oswald in view of this CIA report.

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(4) FBI Techniques in Covering Oswald's Activities in U. S. Commission particularly desires to know how we learned of Oswald's return to Fort Worth, Texas, after Oswald returned to U. S. on June 13, 1962. Commission desires to know whether Oswald was placed under surveillance upon his arrival in New York and desires to know how we developed certain information in this investigation and in what way. Commission also desires to know why the FBI Identification Division carries Oswald's file as 327925D while main case file on Oswald is 105-S2555.

(5) FBI Reporting Procedures in Handling Oswald Investigation. Commission makes reference to numerous reports which have been submitted to the Commission and notes that certain reports duplicate information carried in other reports but at same time omit certain data that is carried in another report submitted for the same period involved. Commission noted the credit check in Fort Worth on 2-27-61 and 2-7-63 re Oswald had not been reported in our reports for the period involved.

Commission also requested to be advised whether SA Hosty stated to anyone on November 22, 1963, that Oswald had contacted two known subversive agents about 15 days before the assassination but that the entire information was Top Secret. The Commission stated that if Hosty made such statement, to what did SA Hosty refer. Commission again raised question as to why entry in Oswald's address book involving SA Hosty was not set out in the December 23, 1963, Dallas report dealing in part with Oswald's address book. Our answer to this particular inquiry has been furnished to the Commission previously by separate communication and apparently has not been correlated within the Commission.

Memorandum to Mr. Sullivan
Re: LEE HARVEY OSWALD
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ACTION:

Each of 30 individual questions posed by the Commission regarding FBI handling of the Oswald case is being very carefully analyzed. In some instances it will be necessary to contact the New Orleans and Dallas Offices to get the answers from the Agent in the field who handled the investigation involved in a specific question. This matter is being given expeditious attention in order that a prompt reply can be furnished the Commission regarding its inquiries in this particular matter.

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